Do Schools need to comply?

Yes - under the provisions of Australian privacy legislation.

Conditions of compliance:

Schools must comply with the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 (Cth) and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). They must also comply with the National Privacy Principles contained in the Act.

In addition, the SA Government has approved a framework for information sharing between all government and relevant non-government agencies including Independent schools, entitled Information Sharing: Guidelines for Promoting the Safety and Wellbeing of Children Young People and their Families. This document provides guidance about appropriate information sharing between agencies.

The AISSA has developed an Appendix to the Guidelines for procedures to apply in Independent schools (see link below).

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

You are advised to read the AISSA document “Privacy Compliance Manual for Schools” (provided for use of member schools), and Information Sharing: Guidelines for Promoting the Safety and Wellbeing of Children Young People and their Families. These documents can be accessed via the links below.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

You may be in breach of the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 (Cth) and the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Members of the community may also take action through the Privacy Commission.

See also:

Privacy Compliance Manual for Schools
AISSA Appendix to the Information Sharing Guidelines 2011

Useful Links:

Information Sharing Guidelines for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and their families